

BEACH PATROL SCHEME 2012 PRELIMINARY REPORT

This report is based on 324 cards for 2012 received as at 30th January 2014. This compares to 352 cards in 2011, 315 in 2010, 385 in 2009, 381 in 2008 and 403 in 2007. In 2012 1,625 km were patrolled (1,846 km in 2011, 3,210 km in 2010, 4,470 km in 2009, 2,524 km in 2008 and 2,307 km in 2007). Dead seabirds found in 2012 totalled 1,924 (57,920 in 2011, 3,266 in 2010, 4,763 in 2009, 3,906 in 2008, 3,786 in 2007 and 3,117 in 2006). There were no significant wrecks in the year in contrast to 2011 which had two major events; the prion wreck and the oil spill that resulted from the grounding of the *MV Rena*. A preliminary look through the 2013 cards suggests a major wreck of Sooty Shearwaters in May and a major wreck of Short-tailed Shearwaters from October to December.

The region with the highest birds per kilometre total was Bay of Plenty with 5 birds per kilometre, Two districts had no patrols done: Offshore Islands and East Coast North Island.

The average recovery rate for the whole country is around 1.8 birds per kilometre, contrasting with the 2011 average of 31 birds per kilometre.

Birds recovered in 2012 (brackets indicates the 2011, 2010 and 2009 figures):

Royal Albatross 1 (1, 2, 5)
Wandering Albatross 3 (3, 5, 6)
Shy/White-capped Albatross 17 (25, 29, 40)
Salvin's Albatross 1 (2, 2, 4)
Black-browed/Campbell Albatross 1 (3, 1, 5)
Grey-headed Albatross 1 (4, 8, 8)
Buller's Albatross 14 (74, 27, 16)
Sooty Albatross 0 (1, 0, 0)
Light-mantled Sooty albatross 4 (1, 3, 2)
Yellow-nosed Albatross 0 (0, 0, 1)
Chatham Island Albatross 0 (1, 0, 0)
Mollymawk/Albatross sp. 9 (7, 16, 10)
Northern Giant Petrel 2 (6, 7, 6)
Southern Giant Petrel 3 (0, 17, 8)
Giant petrel sp. 7 (6, 7, 6)
Buller's Shearwater 43 (282, 107, 456)
Sooty Shearwater 253 (650, 1,983, 417)
Short-tailed Shearwater 50 (8, 157, 116)
Wedge-tailed Shearwater 1, (0, 1, 1)
Flesh-footed Shearwater 25, (119, 22, 24)
Fluttering Shearwater 169, (471, 250, 402)
Hutton's Shearwater 61 (63, 59, 127)
Little Shearwater 1 (35, 14, 12)
Common Diving Petrel 57 (1,146, 86, 111)
White-chinned Petrel 3 (5, 6, 2)
Westland black petrel 1, (2, 0, 1)
Black Petrel 3 (3, 1, 2)
Grey Petrel 0 (0, 1, 0)
Antarctic Fulmar 6 (1, 59, 3)

Cape Petrel 13 (25, 41, 36)
Blue Petrel 1 (28, 9, 6)
Fairy Prion 113 (2,304, 192, 226)
Fulmar Prion 1, (55, 2, 0)
Broad-billed Prion 224 (34,630, 47, 43)
Thin-billed Prion 4 (1,153, 14, 22)
Salvin's Prion 8 (2,257, 3, 3)
Antarctic Prion 8 (1,265, 4, 7)
Prion sp. 123 (12,169, 166, 109)
Cook's Petrel 2 (9, 19, 11)
White-naped Petrel 0 (0, 1, 0)
Mottled Petrel 46 (40, 27, 44)
Black-winged Petrel 0 (0, 2, 2)
Pycroft's Petrel 0 (0, 0, 1)
Gould's Petrel 0 (1, 0, 0)
Kerguelen Petrel 2 (2, 0, 0)
White-headed Petrel 11 (9, 33, 7)
Grey-faced Petrel 7 (15, 17, 13)
White-faced Storm Petrel 5 (86, 6, 19)
Grey-backed storm Petrel 0 (0, 0, 1)
Black-bellied storm Petrel 0 (0, 0, 1)
Storm petrel sp. 0 (5, 1, 0)
Shearwater/petrel sp. 2 (5, 21, 25)
Yellow-eyed Penguin 2 (5, 5, 4)
Blue Penguin 61 (365, 420, 410)
White-flippered Penguin 19 (18, 5, 19)
Fiordland Crested Penguin 4 (3, 1, 4)
Erect-crested penguin 1 (0, 0, 0)
Red-tailed Tropicbird 1 (1, 0, 0)
Tropicbird sp. 0 (0, 1, 0)
Australasian Gannet 116 (115, 429, 213)
Black Shag 1 (3, 6, 4)
Pied Shag 10 (33, 32, 25)
Little Black Shag 0 (5, 1, 1)
Little Shag 1 (6, 3, 1)
Spotted Shag 146 (83, 47, 70)
Stewart Island Shag 9 (7, 9, 5)
Auckland Island Shag 0 (0, 1, 0)
Shag sp. 0 (6, 0,0)
White-faced Heron 0 (0, 1, 2)
Royal Spoonbill 0 (4, 2, 1)
Black Swan 15 (8, 12, 8)
Feral Goose 3 (2, 4, 7)
Canada Goose 6 (1, 0, 7)
Paradise Shelduck 13 (17, 4, 9)
Mallard 4 (3, 8, 34)
Domestic duck 0 (0, 1, 0)
Grey Duck 1 (0, 0, 1)
Grey Teal 3 (3, 0, 0)
Australasian Shoveler 2 (1, 0, 0)

New Zealand Scaup 2 (1, 0, 0)
 Australasian Harrier 3 (3, 4, 4)
 Feral Turkey 0 (1, 4, 0)
 Domestic chicken 0 (2, 1, 3)
 Banded Rail 0 (0, 1, 0)
 Pukeko 0 (1, 2, 5)
 Pied Oystercatcher 6 (2, 1, 5)
 Variable Oystercatcher 2 (1, 5, 2)
 Oystercatcher sp. 1 (0, 0, 0)
 Spur-winged Plover 0 (0, 1, 1)
 Banded Dotterel 0 (0, 2, 0)
 Bar-tailed Godwit 2 (1, 0, 1)
 Black-backed Gull 108 (90, 185, 114)
 Red-billed Gull 31 (28, 33, 21)
 Black-billed Gull 7 (10, 8, 8)
 Gull sp. 0 (0, 0, 1)
 Brown Skua 0 (0, 0, 4)
 Arctic Skua 1 (0, 0, 0)
 Caspian Tern 1 (3, 8, 1)
 White-fronted Tern 15 (24, 34, 20)
 Arctic Tern 0 (0, 1, 0)
 Sooty Tern 0 (0, 1, 0)
 Tern sp, 1 (0, 0, 0)
 New Zealand Pigeon 3 (3, 2, 0)
 Domestic/feral pigeon 5 (3, 5, 2)
 Kaka 0 (0, 1, 0)
 Shining Cuckoo 0 (0, 1, 0)
 Long-tailed Cuckoo 0 (1, 0, 0)
 Sacred Kingfisher 0 (0, 1, 0)
 Blackbird 0 (0, 4, 1)
 Song Thrush 1 (4, 0, 4)
 Tui 0 (3, 1, 1)
 Common Starling 1 (1, 0, 1)
 Common Myna 0 (1, 1, 0)
 Common Pheasant 0 (0, 0, 1)
 Yellowhammer 0 (0, 0, 1)
 European Goldfinch 1 (1, 0, 2)
 House Sparrow 0 (0, 0, 1)
 Silvereye 0 (0, 0, 1)
 Australian Magpie 16 (14, 0, 9)
 Australasian Pipit 1 (1, 0, 0)
 Weka 0 (1, 0, 0)
 Bird sp. 3 (2, 3, 3)

Section of Coast	No. of Cards	No. of Birds	km covered
Auckland East AE	8	9	13
Auckland West AW	61	348	382

Bay of Plenty BP	15	215	43
Canterbury North CN	62	309	475
Canterbury South CS	7	36	33
East Coast NI EC	-	-	-
Fiordland FD	1	1	1
North Coast SI NC	4	11	5
Northland East NE	11	131	82
Northland West NW	7	107	98
Outlying Islands OI (Chatham)	-	-	-
Otago OT	4	9	12
Southland SD	86	458	288
Taranaki TA	13	106	91
Wairarapa WA	2	2	1
Westland WD	12	29	40
Wellington South WS	9	30	17
Wellington West WW	22	123	44
Totals	324	1,924	1,625

2012 banded birds

During the year five banded seabirds were noted on the cards. These are:

- 1) Gannet M72567 – banded as a chick on White Island on 1/2/1998, recovered 24/11/12 on Ruapuke Beach, Waikato
- 2) Red-billed Gull E183532 – banded on 03/12/00 at Kaikoura, recovered Kaikoura 01/11/12
- 3) White-flipped Penguin recovered Kaitorete Spit, Canterbury 09/04/12
- 4) Black-backed Gull recovered Matiu/Somes Island 11/02/12
- 5) Little Penguin recovered Matiu/Somes Island 11/02/12

There was also a racing pigeon found on Ruapuke Beach, Waikato on 28/11/12. It had been liberated at Masterton on 3/11/12 for a race to Christchurch. So why was it there?

The cause of death was noted for several birds. One Little Penguin was killed by a stoat while moulting, six Paradise Shelducks were victims of the shooting season, as were two Mallards and a Grey duck. Nine Spotted Shags were shot at the Waiau Rivermouth in Southland and a Shy Albatross was found with a dogfish stuck in its throat.

The continued success of the Beach Patrol Scheme is due to the dedication of those hardy souls who brave all manner of weather conditions to trudge the weary miles in search of decaying corpses. Please note any banded birds on the forms or cards and please note any obvious cause of death. Keep up the good work!

LLOYD ESLER